

REMARKS

Status of the Application & Formalities

Claim Status

Claims 1, 2 and 8-12 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants are amending claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 8, and amending claim 9 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 13. As such, this Application is now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as to the invention.

Claim 8 is being canceled by this Amendment. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 8 and to address the section 112 rejections by reciting “said only one circular vacuum chamber” instead of “the cavity.”

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Laurent (WO 99/17334).

As indicated above, Applicant is amending independent claim 9 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 13. As such, the rejection under Laurent is now moot.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Laurent (WO 99/17334) in view of Moore (PCT/EP00/12770).

Applicant is amending independent claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 8. As such, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Laurent in view of Moore is now moot.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Laurent (WO 99/17334) as applied to claim 9 above, and in further view of Moore (PCT/EP00/12770; 2003/0097986 used as translation).

Since claim 9 has been amended to include allowable subject matter, dependent claim 12 is now allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 9.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Laurent (WO 99/17334) in view of Moore (PCT/EP00/12770; 2003/0097986) as applied to claim 1 above and in further view of Schmidt (2001/0011654).

Claim 2 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laurent (WO 99/17334).

Claim 11 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 9.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action dated July 6, 2009, the Examiner indicated that claims 8 and 13 are allowed. Again, Applicants are amending independent claims 1 and 9 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 8 and 13. Accordingly, claims 1 and 9, and the dependent claims thereof, are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

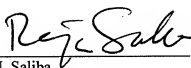
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